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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/812,287	03/29/2004	George Boyadjieff	52310-RVW/V186	2295
23363	7590	11/17/2004	EXAMINER	
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP PO BOX 7068 PASADENA, CA 91109-7068			WALKER, ZAKIYA NICOLE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3672	

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/812,287

Applicant(s)

BOYADJIEFF, GEORGE

Examiner

Zakiya N. Walker

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 31-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 31-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03292004.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 31-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Peppers or Jeter (cited by applicant).

Peppers discloses a method and apparatus that includes a drill pipe for an oil or gas well comprising: a generally cylindrical hollow drill pipe 16 having a length; and a conductive coating connected to the drill pipe to define an electrical pathway that extends along at least a portion of the length of the drill pipe. With respect to depending claims 32-41, the reference teaches the limitations as claimed, including conductive coating (pipe surfaces), and insulative coatings 30. With respect to claim 42, the method teaches a method of communicating to downhole oil or gas well equipment comprising: providing a generally cylindrical hollow drill pipe having a length; and applying a conductive coating on the drill pipe to define an electrical pathway that extends along at least a portion of the length of the drill pipe. With respect to depending claims 42-52, the reference teaches the limitations as claimed.

Jeter discloses a method and apparatus that includes a drill pipe for an oil or gas well comprising: a generally cylindrical hollow drill pipe 29 having a length; and a conductive coating connected to the drill pipe to define an electrical pathway that

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extends along at least a portion of the length of the drill pipe. With respect to depending claims 32-41, the reference teaches the limitations as claimed, including conductive coating (pipe surfaces), and insulative coatings (example: paint). With respect to claim 42, the method teaches a method of communicating to downhole oil or gas well equipment comprising: providing a generally cylindrical hollow drill pipe having a length; and applying a conductive coating on the drill pipe to define an electrical pathway that extends along at least a portion of the length of the drill pipe. With respect to depending claims 42-52, the reference teaches the limitations as claimed.

Double Patenting

3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. Claims 31-52 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 and 16-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,763,887. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of the instant invention are merely a

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broadened interpretation of the US'887 claims. The limitations of the US'887 patent claims 1-3 are divided amongst several claims 31-41 of the instant invention. The limitations of the US'887 patent claims 16-18 are divided amongst several claims 42-52 of the instant invention.

Therefore, it would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the broadened claim limitations in the parent US'887 patent in order to obtain broader patent protection of the invention.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zakiya N. Walker whose telephone number is (703) 305-0302. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday, 6:30 AM-5 PM.

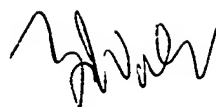
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on (703) 308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zakiya N. Walker'.

Zakiya N. Walker
Primary Examiner
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ZW

November 10, 2004